

## CURRENT TOPICS.

NINE ex-governors of Iowa are living. GEORGIA is to have a confederate house.

A FRAGRANCE African elephant is the latest fad.

WYOMING has a law imposing a \$25 tax on bachelors.

CALIFORNIA boasts of peaches that weigh a pound.

ON an average 200 bears are annually killed in Maine.

ROCKWELL costs about \$750 per thousand feet board measure.

IN France they are strictly to kill goats, flies and other pests.

THE princess of Wales has become an adept in amateur photography.

MR. APPLE is a very successful fruit grower in Sumner county, Kas.

THE production of silk annually reaches over one million pounds.

THE cork-tree is now being successfully cultivated in California.

MICHIGAN university is to have women professors and lecturers in its faculty.

GEORGIA is raising a beautiful red color in being grown in some parts of Georgia.

THE state of Alabama produced more from last year than did Pennsylvania.

THE emperors of Germany had the crown made so as to exactly fit his own head.

THE worst of helmets to the Salvation Army.

GEORGE VANDERBILT will have a \$50,000 tennis court in his palace at Asheville.

MRS. MACKAY is the possessor of a string of flawless diamonds two yards in length.

THE United States mint in San Francisco is the largest one of its kind in the world.

HIS Bible shows that Jonas Carpenter, of Denver, is one hundred and fifty years old.

THE damage to the cereal crops in Canada by insects has been estimated at \$15,000,000.

IN this country 5,000,000 persons are engaged in farming—41 percent of our wage earners.

NEARLY four-fifths of the sugar plantations of Hawaii are owned by Americans.

HEINRICH H. HYDE, president of a New York insurance company, gets a salary of \$100,000 a year.

EIGHT thousand Jewish residents of Odessa, nearly all engaged in business, are under notice of expulsion.

ON fields greater in extent than any in the world have been discovered in the region of the Caspian sea.

M. CHACONAR, the wealthy Parisian who owns Miller's famous picture, the "Angelus," has insured it for \$240,000.

MRS. CONWELL, of Bridgeton, L. I., had a dream and warned her husband not to go to work. He was killed the same day.

ALABAMA has a musical prodigy, a girl nine years old, who is said to play the most difficult pieces on the piano after a single hearing.

CHAR. GRAYMAN wants a divorce from Ida Grauman because she drags him around by his whiskers. Why don't Charles get shaved?

AN enthusiastic person says that "words can not portray" the magnificence of George Vanderhilt's country castle in North Carolina.

AT the close of the civil war there were 70 steam vessels entered on the naval register of the United States, but today only 27 of them survive.

A NEW industry is started in Florida. In Wakulla county, large quantities of horse collars are made from the bark of the rubber tree.

PEACHES are used for fuel in the peach districts of California, selling for 80 per cent. caloric value of peach-stones is equal to coal, pound for pound.

TWO new Canadian ships to be 100 feet long and faster than anything afloat, are guaranteed by the builders to be ready for sea early in the spring of 1892.

IT is said that the largest locomotive ever built in Europe was recently sent out of the Hilschman works in Munich. It is forty-six feet tall and weighs eighty-four tons.

ARTISTIC contests figure among the latest fads in Kansas. Everybody has a shake at the tree, and the man that brings down the most apples carries off the prize.

A LOUISIANA journal relates that the Persian shah has been in retrial lately because by mistake he used a rheumatism instead of hair dressing, and turned his hair a beautiful auburn color.

THE first large quantity of American sponges ever sent to Europe in markets were recently shipped from Philadelphia. The lot comprised 600,000 pounds each of two kinds of sponges from the Florida coast.

TWO STONE slabs, one of them bearing the inscription, "June 1, 1716," and the other the date 1718, were found near Lafayette, Ill., recently. They are supposed to mark the resting place of LaSalle's explorers.

THIRTEEN years ago a student in Here he was mobbed by a mob of students appearing on a bicycle. Now the German Union of Bicyclists, which has just held its eighth annual conference at Breslau, has 14,000 members.

THAT is a deeply rooted superstition in Scotland that May marriages are unlucky and are bound to turn out badly. Last April there were 3,000 marriages in Scotland. In May there were but 1,000, while in June the number jumped to 4,145.

MISS MARION FOSTER, a niece of the secretary, known as the "little invalid artist," is putting into type historical pictures for the World's fair, subjects from every state of the Union.

A DISINFECTANT which combines cheapness with general worth is found in permanganate of potash. One once will make a bucketful of disinfectant.

IT is a crystal, and can be kept in this state until ready for use.

THE tobacco crop of Pennsylvania is valued this year at \$800,000. Two-thirds of it is Havana seed leaf, and when it masquerades as Havana cigars, the dear public will be invited to contribute many times \$800,000.

SOME Russian emigrants on arriving in New York were clubbed by the police and cast into drunken cells. The New York officials seem determined to preserve the Russians against themselves by keeping up the customs of their dear native land.

IN Freeport, Me., not long ago, the school teachers got such small salaries that when a school was started in the town the young women abandoned teaching and took to teaching machines. Since then the school committee have got their eyes open and are now trying to get the school teachers back at higher wages.

## CHICAGO FIREMEN.

They Breathed a Poisonous Gas at a Fire.

And a Captain Is Dead and other Men are in a Critical Condition.

The Fire Insurance Patrol and a lot of the fire engines were called Wednesday night to extinguish a small blaze in the office of the Anderson Printing Co. on Adams street, Chicago, caused by the breaking of a bottle of muriatic acid. The fumes from the burning acid and wood caused the firemen to cough violently, but after extinguishing the fire they went to their respective quarters. Soon after they were attacked by intense pains in the lungs, accompanied by severe chills, heart failure and every symptom of pneumonia. Physicians of old soldiers which said that the men had inhaled muriatic ether, a deadly poisonous agent caused by the burning of the muriatic acid. Capt. Mulholland of the Fire Insurance Patrol was in a very serious condition, and in spite of all that could be done for him, died early Thursday morning in great agony.

Capt. Patrick Donohoe, of the City fire engine company, and James Williams, a fireman, were in a critical condition throughout the night, but it is thought will recover. Several other members of the fire department suffered severely and it is said the hospital physicians Thursday morning that two or three more will die.

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## MIDNIGHT FIRE.

Five Lives Lost in that Flame and Smoke in a Chicago Tenement House.

Fire broke out in a tenement house Friday morning in a three-story tenement in Chicago. Although the blaze lasted but five minutes, the loss of life only made the terrible damage to property stand out more insignificantly.

Five people are dead, and another will probably die. The basement and lower floor of the building were used by Wm. Kaffis for a bakery, and was in the rear of his own room that the fire originated. When discovered the flames had already gained considerable headway. In the upper stories of the building were five families, and the scene of confusion that followed was terrible. After the first volume of smoke had cleared away and the confusion in a measure subsided, the firemen were able to work in the burning building. Men, women and children, all in their night-dresses, had been removed from the building and taken to the fire house, where they were in a very serious condition, and in spite of all that could be done for them, died early Thursday morning in great agony.

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## BALMACEIDA'S END.

Chili's Ex-President Commits Suicide in Santiago.

By Sending a Bullet Through His Brain—Enable to Escape From His Enemies He Chose Suicide Rather Than Death From Their Hands.

The New York Herald's Valparaiso cablegram states that Ex-President Balmaceda, of Chili, shot himself through the temple in his own room that the fire originated. When discovered the flames had already gained considerable headway. In the upper stories of the building were five families, and the scene of confusion that followed was terrible. After the first volume of smoke had cleared away and the confusion in a measure subsided, the firemen were able to work in the burning building. Men, women and children, all in their night-dresses, had been removed from the building and taken to the fire house, where they were in a very serious condition, and in spite of all that could be done for them, died early Thursday morning in great agony.

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